



The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak

Prime Minister

ATTENDING GALA DINNER

Dato' Sri Mohd Najib was appointed as Malaysia's sixth Prime Minister on 3 April 2009. He succeeded Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who did not seek re-election as Umno President.

Dato' Sri Najib, the eldest son of the second Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, was born in the district of Kuala Lipis in the state of Pahang. He received his primary and secondary education at one of the country's leading schools, St John's Institution. He continued his secondary education at the Malvern Boys' College in Worcestershire, England. Upon completion of his secondary education, Dato' Sri Najib enrolled at the University of Nottingham and graduated in 1974 in industrial economics.

On his return to Malaysia in the same year, Dato' Sri Najib joined the national oil company, Petronas, as an executive where he served for two years before taking the plunge into politics following the sudden demise of his father in 1976. He was the obvious choice of the ruling National Front coalition to contest the Pekan parliamentary seat left vacant by his late father. The national outpouring of grief following Tun Razak's death and the respect for his father's tremendous contributions to Malaysia's development saw Dato' Sri Najib elected unopposed as Member of Parliament at the very young age of 23.

It was to mark the start of Dato' Sri Najib's long association with politics and government service. Following his unopposed victory as Member of Parliament in 1976, Dato' Sri Najib was appointed the Deputy Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and Post. He also later served as Deputy Minister of Education and Deputy Minister of Finance. In the 1982 general elections, he stood in the state seat of Bandar Pekan and was subsequently appointed the Menteri Besar of Pahang until 1986.

Following the general elections in 1986 where he re-contested and won the parliamentary seat of Pekan, Dato' Sri Najib was appointed the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports. Under his stewardship, Malaysia had its best ever showing in the SEA Games where the country emerged top in the medal tally for the first time in the history of the games. He also introduced the National Sports Policy which outlines the development of sports in the country and introduced monetary incentives for Malaysian athletes who won medals at the Olympics.

In 1990, Dato' Sri Najib was appointed Minister of Defence, a senior position within the government by the then Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. He embarked on the modernisation of the armed forces, making it a leaner fighting force capable of handling any conventional threats. This, among others, saw Malaysia's acquisition of new assets such as the Russian aircraft, MiG 29, Boeing F18 Super Hornet, the F-2000 frigates, the 155 m artillery gun and the upgrading of the country's air defence with the acquisition of a new radar system. The welfare and well-being of armed forces personnel were given due attention including improvement to their housing facilities and allowances.

In 1995, Dato' Sri Najib was appointed to a much more prominent ministry, the Ministry of Education. During his tenure, the country's education system underwent a major reform with the passing of six laws, the main one being the Education Act 1996, to facilitate a more market driven education system.

The legal framework saw the country's education system undergo massive reforms and sweeping changes to the institutions of learning. It allowed them to offer a wider range of courses, different options and approaches to learning and new teaching methods. Today, there are greater choices and places for Malaysians to pursue their higher education locally or abroad. In addition, an increasing number of foreign students are pursuing their studies at institutions of learning in Malaysia.

Indeed, Dato' Sri Najib had a major role in this move to build a world-class education system that is flexible and innovative in Malaysia as well as turning the country into a regional education hub and centre of excellence. Apart from that, the well-being of teachers was given due attention with the introduction of time-based promotion, a better starting salary for new teachers and special housing projects for teachers.

During the 1999 general elections, Dato' Sri Najib received a major setback when he scraped through with a majority of 241 votes for the predominantly Malay Pekan parliamentary seat compared to the over 10,000 majority in the previous election. It came as a shock for him and political observers. However, it was not a complete surprise as the election came at the height of the 1999 political upheaval.

Following the elections, he was appointed Minister of Defence for the second time and proceeded with the modernisation of the armed forces which had come to a halt following the financial crisis of 1997. Major acquisitions included the purchase of the new Russian fighter aircraft, Sukhoi Su30 MKM, submarines which the Royal Malaysian Navy had sought for years and Polish tanks. Also, the short-range air defence system, Jernas, was acquired for the army. For the armed forces personnel, several allowances were raised in particular flying allowances for air force pilots and higher starting salaries for new recruits.

The 2004 general elections which came a few months after Dato' Sri Najib's elevation as the Deputy Prime Minister saw him winning his parliamentary seat with a whopping 22,922 majority. It was one of the highest majorities in the elections and undoubtedly the most improved performance by a candidate.

In the 2008 general elections, Dato' Sri Najib was re-elected to the Pekan parliamentary seat with a majority of 26,464. It was the highest majority for Barisan Nasional despite the overall drop in support for the coalition government in the general elections.

He remained the Minister of Defence until September 2008 when he took over as Minister of Finance from Dato' Seri Abdullah in 2008. In March 2009, Dato' Sri Najib was elected unopposed as Umno President after Dato' Seri Abdullah decided not to seek re-election. Subsequently, in April, Dato' Seri Abdullah announced he was stepping down as Prime Minister and Dato' Sri Najib was sworn in as Prime Minister. He continues to hold the Minister of Finance post.

Under his premiership, the nation has embarked on a journey of transformation within Malaysia's multi-racial, multi-religious context. The cornerstone is his 1Malaysia initiative, which emphasises national unity.

Dato' Sri Najib has also launched the Government Transformation Programme to improve the quality of public services, increase efficiency and make the government more transparent. The programme sets key performance indicators to measure the performance of officials and agencies and national key result areas to define goals for specific areas of public policy. He also introduced a new cabinet position in charge of unity and performance management to implement the KPI system.

To drive the nation forward, Dato' Sri Najib introduced the New Economic Model with reforms to create a business environment conducive to economic growth, development and investment. The goal is to make Malaysia a high-income nation and a developed country by 2020. Transformation and further liberalisation of the economy are vital to this.

YANG AMAT BERHORMAT
TAN SRI DATO' HJ. MUHYIDDIN BIN HJ. MOHD YASSIN



ATTENDING GALA DINNER

YAB Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin bin Hj. Mohd Yassin was sworn in as the Deputy Prime Minister and the Education Minister of Malaysia on 10 April 2009. Prior to these appointments, he served as the Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia from 18 March 2008 to 9 April 2009.

Born on 15 May 1947 in Muar, Johor, YAB Tan Sri is married to YABhg Puan Sri Datin Hajah Noorainee binti Abdul Rahman and has 4 children.

YAB Tan Sri had his early education in Muar, Johor. Later, he continued his tertiary education at the Universiti Malaya and graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor's Degree of Arts with Honours in the Economics and Malay Studies.

YAB Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin bin Hj. Mohd Yassin was elected as the Deputy President of UMNO on 26 March 2009. He has been a Member of the Parliament of Malaysia since 1978 (currently MP for Pagoh) and has since then been holding several posts in the Government, which include, Parliament Secretary of Foreign Ministry (July 1981 - April 1982), Deputy Minister of the Federal Territory (May 1982 - May 1983), Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry (June 1983 - August 1986), Chief Minister of Johor (August 1986 - May 1995), Minister of Youth and Sports (May 1995 - December 1999), Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (December 1999 - January 2004), as well as Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry (January 2004 - March 2008).



Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Hj. Aman

Minister of Foreign Affairs

ATTENDING GALA DINNER

The Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Hj. Aman was born in Keningau, Sabah on 16 November 1953. He received his secondary education at Sabah College, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. He later graduated from the University of Buckingham, United Kingdom with a degree in philosophy, economics and law.

His political career started in 1991, when he became a Pro-tem committee member for the United Malay National Organisation (UMNO) party at its Beaufort Division in Sabah. His involvement in politics has always been and only with UMNO, a leading component party of the National Front (Barisan Nasional) coalition, which helmed the Government of Malaysia since independence.

In November, 1999, his political career shines when he won the P. 154 Beaufort Parliamentary seat and became a Member of Parliament for Beaufort. In Mac, 2004, the Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Hj. Aman was again given the mandate by the constituents to continue serving as a Member of Parliament for P. 176 Kimanis Parliamentary seat, a seat which he held until today. In July 2004, he was also elected as the Divisional Head for UMNO Kimanis Division until today.

His excellent track record as a Member of Parliament contributed further to his political career when he was appointed as the Deputy Minister of Primary Industries from 1999 to 2004 and the Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities from 2004 until March 2008. In April 2009, he was promoted and appointed to a new portfolio as the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Hj. Aman is an avid golfer. He also loves soccer. His passion for the sport saw his involvement in the various capacities. Since 1995 to date, the Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Hj. Aman played the various roles as the Manager for the Sabah Football M-League Team, Vice President, Executive Committee Member and Council Member of the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) and President of the Sabah Football Association (SAFA).

He was also Team Manager for the FAM team for B-23 Years. For his illustrious contribution to the development of soccer, he was awarded with the Special Award of Leadership for Sports (Anugerah Khas Persatuan Kepimpinan Sukan) in 1996 from the Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports of Malaysia.

P.RAVIDRAN A/L PALANIAPPAN
SENIOR DIRECTOR
ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL
TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI), MALAYSIA

ATTENDING REIWG MEETING

QUALIFICATION

B.A Hons. (UM)

Diploma in Education (UM)

Diploma in Public Management (INTAN)

MBA University of Birmingham, U.K

CAREER

- Assistant Director, Bilateral Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry (1983-1988)
- Assistant Director, Bilateral Division, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (1988-1993)
- Assistant Secretary, Macro and Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Agriculture (1995-1996)
- Principal Assistant Director, ASEAN Economic Cooperation, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (1996-2000)
- MITI Counsellor, Bangkok, Thailand (2000-2004)
- Senior Director, ASEAN Economic Cooperation, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (2005-Current)



Mr. J. JAYASIRI

Senior Director, Multilateral Trade Policy and Negotiations,
Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia

ATTENDING REIWG MEETING

Mr. J. Jayasiri is Senior Director, Multilateral Trade Policy and Negotiations, Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia. He has held various positions, such as assistant secretary of International Affairs, Ministry of Primary Industries between 1981 and 1988, and First Secretary/Counsellor, Economic Affairs, Permanent Mission of Malaysia in Geneva from 1988 to 1997. In July 1997, he started his career at Ministry of International Trade and Industry as principal assistant director of Multilateral Trade Relations. He became Director of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and was appointed as Malaysia's Senior Official to APEC from 2002 – 2006. He was Senior Director, Bilateral and Regional Relations from 2006 – October 2008 and Senior Director of FTA Policy and Negotiations Coordination from October 2008 – September 2009.

Mr. Jayasiri has dealt extensively with international commodity issues and negotiated international commodity agreements. He represented Malaysia in multilateral trade negotiations in GATT/WTO, APEC and various FTAs including Malaysia-Japan Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and the ASEAN-China FTA, and Malaysia-US FTA. He is currently the chief negotiator for Malaysia in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.



Mr. Somasundram Ramasamy

Senior Undersecretary, Energy Sector
Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, Malaysia

ATTENDING SDWG MEETING

JOB HISTORY

2006 - Now : Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water
1997 - 2006 : Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management
Planning Unit (MAMPU), Prime Minister's Department
1995 - 1996 : Masters in Community Psychology, Penn State University,
USA
1992 - 1994 : National Registration Department
1981 - 1992 : Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

1979 : Bachelor of Arts (Hons.), National University of Malaysia
1980 : Diploma in Public Administration, National Institute of Public
Administration, Malaysia
1996 : Masters in Community Psychology, Penn. State University, USA